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Highlander

Immortal Highlanders Reborn in Ongoing Series

Last month, Dynamite Entertainment introduced readers to its ***Highlander*** franchise with a bargain-priced zero issue. This fall, they're continuing the adventures of the immortal heroes with the kickoff issue of an ongoing series that expands on the mythos.

While many licensed properties are developed "in isolation," with no input from the concept creators other than studio approval, that's not the case with Dynamite's ***Highlander.*** Instead, the publisher has worked very closely with Davis Merchandising, who in turn has enlisted *David Abramowitz* to work with them. "David has been a tremendous asset in that he's charged with making sure our stories capture the 'magic' of the first movie and TV shows and we build on the already-established mythos," Dynamite's *J. Allen* said. "We work with him from the get-go by putting together the outlines for his review, get his feedback, forward that to the creative team and incorporate his ideas; we get that tight and then he looks at scripts, it's been great working with him and the work is better overall because of it."

So just who is *David Abramowitz?* The best source for that information is none other that Mr. Abramowitz himself. "I was the TV showrunner for ***Highlander***'s six years. I am a consultant on the coming videogame, the writer of the anime movie ***Highlander: Vengeance***. I did the final draft of ***Highlander:The Source***. Both movies will out in the next year. I got involved with the comics because [film producer] *Peter Davis* asked me to. I'm a consultant—the old guy in the back of the room with lots of opinions and little responsibility."

As Abramowitz sees it, the primary goal of Dynamite's comics is to enhance the overall ***Highlander*** canon. "The focus of the series is to develop stories that have not been seen in TV or the features," he explained, rather than to retell what has been done in other media. "It's to find the gaps the places where we haven't gone before and mine those for drama, adventure, and passion."

Will new characters be introduced in the comic, or is the focus on key characters established in the films/series? "Both," Abramowitz said. "New characters—Immortals and non-immortals—have already been created to bounce off Duncan and Connor. The Kurgan plays prominently as well."

While Abramowitz is involved in an advisory capacity, the first storyline for the series is the responsibility of writers *Brandon Jerwa* and *Michael Avon Oeming*, both of whom put in some time researching ***Highlander*** prior to launching the series. "Having David as the final fact-checker is great, but by no means do we approach this with a lazy attitude," Jerwa said. "I believe in doing my homework in advance as much as I can." To ensure that their stories fit in with overall continuity, "I follow a couple of the fan timelines for easy reference, as well as notes I've made for myself from the TV show and movies."

" I think Brandon is a little more on-message than I am," Oeming added. "I check out the fan timelines, those guys know this show and film better than God, but I also think we have more leeway with the comics."

So where does their series fit into ***Highlander*** continuity? "I think we're going to have to shift our time-frame at some point, which will present some interesting complications," Jerwa said. "For now, though, we're in the post-first-movie 1980s."

Jerwa is determined to avoid the licensed-property trap of creating a series that only makes sense to those familiar with the source material. "The comic is 100% accessible to *everyone*, as far as I'm concerned. There will be things along the way for die-hard fans to enjoy, but I would never dream of leaving the new readers out of the story. We'll give you all the information you need, even if you've never seen a ***Highlander*** movie or TV show."

"It's dudes fighting with swords—*of course* it's for everyone!" Oeming added. "And we keep in mind many people who have never seen the show or movie will be reading the book, so we keep it open to that."

The strong orders for ***Highlander #0*** proved that there was still a strong interest in the franchise. Have the creators gotten any feedback from fans now that the book is out? "Well, fans are picking it up and I haven't seen anyone calling for our heads yet, so that's a good sign so far!" Jerwa joked about the zero issue, which "follows the first movie and sort of sets the immediate stage for our first year of stories."

Highlander #1 picks up with plot threads introduced in the zero issue. "'The Coldest War' runs five parts, counting the zero issue," co-writer *Brandon Jerwa* told ***CSN***. "In this story, Connor and some immortal allies have to face down Cold War super-soldiers who were once sworn to follow the Kurgan, whom Connor killed in the first movie. We'll see the 'present-day' conflict erupt while flashing back to the 1960s, when Connor and these others first encountered the super-soldiers. We'll also see a heretofore-unseen conflict with the Kurgan himself. "

What's the working relationship between the two writers—who's plotting, who's scripting, or are each doing some of both? "Basically, we talked ideas, which got presented to Davis Merchandising and David. Once we got feedback, I presented my story outline for the first arc to Mike and he gave his input," Jerwa said. "Then it was back to me for scripting, back to him for script input. From there, it goes to Dynamite editorial and *David Abramowitz* to finalize. It's really been a pretty seamless operation from the get-go."

How long are Jerwa, Oeming, and artist *Lee Moder* committed to the series? "Oeming was just on board for the opening arc, though he *will* be back to ***Highlander*** in the near future as he has a story he'd like to do, and who are we to say no?" *J. Allen* said. "Jerwa's flying solo from #5 and up, so there will be only *one* writer—with a little help from David. Lee actually had another assignment before ***Highlander*** came together, so we may move him over to that after the first arc. It's all about timing…"

Dynamite is so confident in the appeal of ***Highlander*** that they're looking beyond the core series. "We have some minis and specials featuring Connor—and Duncan—in the works," Allen said.

Highlander #1, a $2.99 comic, is scheduled for late October release. The book will ship with three covers by *Tony Harris, Dave Dorman,* and *Gabriel Dell'Otto,* all shipping in equal ratio.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

A Thousand Weeks

Hard to believe that it was a thousand weeks ago that we released that first issue of *Comic Shop News*, isn't it? The comics industry was different in many ways—some of the major publishers in the field at that time included First, Comico, and Eclipse, all of whom are long since gone—but many of the major talents that we covered in those early days are still around, including *Howard Chaykin, Walter Simonson, Frank Miller, Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons, Dan Jurgens, John Byrne, Jim Starlin, Chris Claremont, Wendy & Richard Pini, Keith Giffen,* and *Timothy Truman*, just to name a few. Of course, they've been joined by a legion of new talents and new publishers who hope to find their own place alongside the Big Two, DC and Marvel.

Back in 1987 when we started *CSN*, trade paperbacks were virtual anomalies; there were only a small handful of stories that had enough of a reputation to earn a continual "in-print" status. A comic shop could stock the entirity of the industry's in-print trade paperback and hardcover output on one bookshelf unit with plenty of room left over for face-out displays.

1987 was two years before ***Tim Burton*** proved that there was still plenty of cinematic life left in comic book heroes. The unprecedented success of that ***Batman*** film forced other entertainment media to show new-found respect to comics—and *CSN* was on hand to cover the Batman phenomenon and the comics growth spurt that followed.

We've covered comics through the independent explosions and implosions, the distributor wars, the birth of Image and the rise of exciting new publishers, the debut of Vertigo as an imprint and an aesthetic, the rise and fall and phoenix-like return of Marvel, the multi-line expansions at DC, the brilliantly flawed CrossGen experiment, the 80's retro boom, the renaissance of licensed properties, the entry of major non-comics publishers like Random House, Scholastic, and St. Martin's into the growing comics field, and countless other changes that have helped to shape comics as one of the most innovative entertainment media of the 21st Century.

When we began, the industry could still embrace some of its most talented pioneers—creators like Jack Kirby, Will Eisner, John *Buscema, Gil Kane, Jerry Siegel, Joe Shuster, Bob Kane, Bill Gaines,* and *Harvey Kurtzman* were still alive, and many of them were sharing their talents with readers in the form of new projects. If only they were still with us today, imagine what they might do with the new-found creative freedom that today's diverse market affords!

But of course, it isn't a thousand weeks of ***Comic Shop News*** that is particularly noteworthy—instead, it's a thousand weeks of friendly neighborhood comic shops offering *CSN* to their customers in order to keep them informed about this ever-changing art form. They're the ones who have made the first thousand weeks possible—and with their support, we hope to be here a thousand weeks from now!

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The Police Force Is With Them

IDW has landed the rights to one of the most influential adventure series in comic strip history as they add *Chester Gould's* complete ***Dick Tracy*** series to their line beginning this fall.

Dick Tracy Volume One, debuting in October, will begin a comprehensive reprinting of Gould's entire run on the series. "Both *Ted Adams*, one of the founding partners of IDW, and I love the various comic strip reprint books that are being done by Fantagraphics and Drawn and Quarterly," IDW Editor in Chief *Chris Ryall* said. "Ted made a short list of strips that he thought warranted similar attention. ***Dick Tracy*** was at the top of the list, so he approached Classic Media/Tribune Media Services first and they quickly agreed that the strips deserves the lavish attention that we plan to give them."

The police strip became a favorite when it was launched in the 1930's. Gould gave Tracy one of the most memorable rogues' galleries in comic strip history—a wacko assemblage of criminals who have influenced many comic book creators since then. As the strip progressed, Gould kept it fresh with the addition of human interest subplots, SF elements, and more. "The strip was pretty grisly throughout its run and Tracy's rogues gallery is legendary, including bad guys like The Brow, Pruneface, Flattop, Breathless Mahoney, 88 Keys, and dozens more.

"Chester Gould's paragon of avenging normalcy was not your average, tough-guy detective," Ryall said. "A unique combination of brawn and brains, he prefigured a whole new breed of scientific sleuths, whose recourse to technical innovations in criminology gave them the edge on grifters and hoods.'

Don't expect to see an origin story in this collection. "Tracy is already a police detective when Gould begins to tell his story, but this volume is the introduction to many of the major characters in the strip, including Tess Trueheart, Junior, and Chief Brandon," Ryall said.

Consulting Editor and longtime ***Tracy*** writer *Max Allan Collins* will provide an overview and introduction. "Max brings a unique editorial contribution to the series. Not only is he a fan of the Gould strip, he also wrote ***Dick Tracy*** for many years. He's one of our favorite writers and was the first person we approached after we got the rights from Classic Media/Tribune Media Services. And the first volume will feature a long interview between Max and *Chester Gould*."

IDW intends to print the entire Gould run on the strip as well as the introductory strips that Gould did to sell ***Dick Tracy*** to newspapers. "Overall, the plan is to do two to three volumes a year. It will take us many years to collect Gould's entire run. The strip was around for more than fifty years," Ryall said.

Lost and Found

Think you've read every ***Fantastic Four*** story that *Stan Lee & Jack Kirby* produced? Actually, there's one story that you *haven't* read... because it was never finished. Until now, that is.

Marvel has announced that the legendary "lost" issue of ***Fantastic Four,*** originally intended for ***FF #102*** but never completed in its envisioned form, will at last be completed and published. Marvel editor *Tom Brevoort* explained how the issue became "lost" to begin with, and how it came to be "found."

The story wasn't completed because "the relationship between Stan and Jack had deteriorated pretty badly by the point this issue was being done," Brevoort told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "Apparently, Kirby was insisting that Stan provide him with an actual written plot if he was going to be listed as the writer. And apparently, that's what was done with this story—though the actual plot document by Stan has never turned up.

"Supposedly, when the boards came in, Stan felt that Jack had gone off the rails a little bit with the story-he wasn't satisfied with it-and he put it aside to try to deal with at a later date. Kirby leaving Marvel to go to DC and do ***New Gods*** kind of put the kibosh on that—but in order to salvage some of the job, Stan later incorporated it into a later story as an extended flashback to an adventure that had never seen print. In doing so, he modified some of the details of the story, and had *John Buscema* and *John Romita* do new interstitial artwork to smooth over these changes. The whole thing saw print in ***Fantastic Four #108***."

The original story "concerns a super-villain called the Mega-Man, who has a Corsican brothers-style connection with his twin brother, a crippled scientist," Brevoort said. "In the reworked version that appeared in ***FF #108***, he became the Nega-Man, and his powers were tied to the Negative Zone."

The entire story was pencilled by Kirby back in 1970—and thanks to Jack's habit of saving copies of his pencils, Marvel (in conjunction with Jack's daughter, Lisa and John Morrow, editor of ***The Jack Kirby Collector***) was able to restore the entire story. "So at this point, the job needs to be dialogued, and the balance of the pages, or potentially all of the pages, need to be inked, then colored and lettered. We'll be shipping all of the material off to Stan shortly so that he can begin working on his end-it'll be up to him to decide whether he wants to keep any of the dialogue he wrote for ***FF #108***, or if he'd rather just script the job clean."

Brevoort already knows who he'd prefer to have inking the book. "Assuming he's up for it, my first choice would be to get *Joe Sinnott* to finish the job, as he was a key component to the success of the Lee/Kirby *FF*, and the *FF* beyond Lee and Kirby, for so many years. But I haven't yet been able to speak to him about it, so it'll depend on his availability. Failing that, there's another way you could go, which is to treat this more like a modern story, and get a great inker like *Danny Miki* to take a shot at the book—combined with modern coloring by somebody like *Richard Isanove*, you might be able to show just how well Kirby's work could stand alongside the artistic greats of today if he'd had the same technological tools to work with in his time. But all of this is still up in the air at this point."

Marvels plans call for the book to be published "as a double-sized special, which will include the newly reconstructed version of the story, *John Morrow's* article about the lost issue illustrated with the unlinked Kirby pencils to the story, and a reprint of ***FF #108***, so people can see how some of the material wound up being used." Look for the book to appear late this year or early next year.

DC on the Move

While DC is known as one of the field's pre-eminent publishers, the company has always relied on others to bring its characters to film and/or television. That's changing, though, as DC Publisher and President *Paul Levitz* confirmed in San Diego: DC is working with Warner Bros. Animation and Warner Home Video to venture into the direct-to-video market with a trio of animated features: ***DC—The New Frontier, Superman/Doomsday,*** and ***New Teen Titans: The Judas Contract.***

Bruce Timm will oversee the projects, and each will be faithful adaptations of the original stories, carrying over the stories as well

as the art styles from the comics. As such, *Darwyn Cooke, Marv Wolfman,* and *George Pérez* will be helping with the adaptations.

Levitz explained to ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady* how DC's expansion into direct-to-video animation came about. "We've been talking within the different divisions of Warner Bros. for maybe a little more than two years about the best ways to use the DC library and the DC brands in the direct-to-video market, which is an emerging and interesting business," Levitz said. "In the last few months, it's begun to come together much more solidly and we came up with the parameters for the program, something that would put together: the strengths of Warner Bros. Animation with their incredible team of award-wining animations—guys like *Bruce Timm*, who have as much knowledge and love for the characters as anybody working in any part of comics; Warner Home Video with their market reach and power; and DC with the characters and our creators.

"Ultimately, once we figured out what the box was that we wanted to work in creatively; we sat around and asked what's cool? We started playing with the ideas—if we were going to do the ***New Teen Titans***, one of the best stories and one that everybody loved was ***The Judas Contract***. Wouldn't it be incredible to get Marv involved in that? If we're going to do the ***Justice League*** characters—well, you *could* do ***Kingdom Come*** on one hand, but maybe do ***New Frontier***, and we settled on that as a logical place to start.

"Most of the direct-to-video that we've done so far have been aimed at the kid market. Some of them have been brilliant - I'm a big fan of ***The Last Son of Krypton*** from the ***Superman*** animated series. I thought that was a neat way of weaving Brainiac into the destruction of Krypton in a way that worked."

These direct-to-video features, however, will be focused at established readers who are already familiar with the characters, so creators won't have to start from the beginning. "The opportunity to capture the older, collector's market, and have it make an impact seemed to be one of the factors that made it easier to bring into the discussion what our fans would love to see us do. That helped to lead us in the direction we needed to go in."

How faithfully will these adaptations follow the source material? "It's going to vary tremendously from case to case," Levitz said. "First off, you want to tell the story in a fashion that's appropriate to the medium it's in. Animation has great strengths - sound, voice acting, visual movement that comics don't have. Comics have strengths that animation doesn't - the ability to jump time very seamlessly and painlessly and take the reader with you, the unlimited special effects and background budgets. You really want to look at each project with love, and ask: what's the essence of what people loved about this, and how much of that story can I tell here?

"One of the reasons that ***Superman/Doomsday*** is defined that way is that ***The Death of Superman***, per se, couldn't really be done in an hour-long animated film. It's just *way* too big a story in and of itself, so this is a…generous adaptation of it to the new form.

"***New Frontier***, we think may be able to be a little bit more literal of an adaptation, but yet, it will still lose some things—and hopefully gain some others."

And with ***Judas Contract*** writer *Marv Wolfman,* who's also worked in the animation field, contributing to the direct-to-video version of that tale, "you have someone who is able to give you the most loving translation you could possibly have," Levitz said.

Levitz also said that each animated feature would strive to capture the visual look of the source material. "That's the goal, and it's certainly the reason to have George and Darwyn involved. With ***New Frontier***, Darwyn's an animator by trade, so like Marv on Titans, he brings with him a very powerful knowledge of how to translate his own work. Animation's not the same thing as comics, so there are certain translations to be made, but I think you will feel the richness of Darwyn's work come through."

As for *Bruce Timm's* role in all this—well, Levitz describes him as a sort of "guardian angel" overseeing each project. "Bruce is a wonderful treasure for is, because I can sit there and discuss issues of ***The Avengers*** with him, and early comics in any form and fashion, and he has as much or more knowledge about the topic. At the same time, he's had the gift of being able to look at the material, and you can almost see the lenses in his eyes click over - he can look at a panel or a sequence and immediately see how it needs to be adjusted to work in animation.

"The goal of Bruce being here is not to do these in his style—we've been there, done that —it may be appropriate for some future project, but that's not the purpose here. No, Bruce is here to bring that quality of creative intelligence to the translation process."

Levitz sees the trio of animated features as ""just the beginning. We're sitting around and thinking of more...so send all your suggestions in... We're looking at all the great stories, and cases where we can find the best stories of a long run."

No release date has been announced for the first direct-to-video release—but once that date is set, you'll hear about it in ***CSN!***

Ultimate Departure

With ***Ultimate Spider-Man #100*** due any week now and the record-setting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #103*** establishing *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley* as the record-holding creative team at Marvel (having produced more consecutive issues of any superhero series in Marvel history, surpassing the 102-issue *Stan Lee-Jack Kirby* run on ***Fantastic Four***), it appears that the end of an era is soon approaching. *Mark Bagley* has confirmed his plans to leave the series after ***Ultimate Spider-Man #110.***

"I've had an incredible time with ***Ultimate Spider-Man,"*** Bagley told ***CSN,*** "but I don't want to stagnate. Right now, Brian and I are doing some of the best work we've ever done on the comic, and I think it's best for me to leave while we're on the top of our game." While Bagley is moving on to other projects, Bendis *will* remain with ***Ultimate Spider-Man,*** although Marvel has not chosen an artist to take over the title. Of course, there are very few artists working in comics today who can match Bagley's prodigious output; the artist has produced as many as eighteen issues per year and has still found time to do additional work for Marvel.

So what's next for Bagley? "I'm not sure what I'll be doing next," he said. "I'm talking with Marvel, and they have several

books they're evaluating to see just where they feel I will fit best." Once that decision is made, of course, you'll hear about it in ***CSN***!

Ins & Outs

Out: Claypool Comics, which is ending its print operations after almost a decade and a half. The company will wrap up with ***Elvira #166*** and ***Soulsearchers & Company #82*** (shipping in February 2007) and ***Deadbeats #82*** (shipping in March). ***Deadbeats*** will continue on the web, but the other books will end their length runs. In spite of a talent roster that included *Peter David, Kurt Busiek, Mike Manley, Neil Vokes, Amanda Conner,* and many others, Claypool was unable to maintain a sufficiently large audience to meet new minimum-sales thresholds established by Diamond Distribution. "Ultimately we had to surrender to reality: There's too much competing product out there for the customer base, the retail base, and the distribution chain — and we're a small, black-and-white line of offbeat, almost uncategorizable comics," editor *Richard Howell* said.

In: A limited black-and-white edition of The Dabel Brothers' ***Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter—Guilty Pleasures,*** reproduced from *Brett Booth's* pencil art. This collectible limited edition will hold readers over until the full version of the book is published later this year.

Out: Overprintings on any of Marvel's new MAX titles. When Marvel launches the second wave of MAX offerings with ***Zombie*** in September, they'll be printing to order with only a small overage to cover damages. So if you don't want to miss out on any of these new titles, buy 'em as soon as you see 'em or reserve them with the folks at your friendly local comic shop!

In: Four new Japanese manga have been added to the Seven Seas Entertainment line. The books, which will debut in late 2006 and early 2007, include: ***Kashimashi—Girl Meets Girl,*** about a boy who becomes a girl and then finds himself caught in an all-girl love triangle; ***Shinigami no Ballad,*** about a young female grim reaper who reaps souls but also helps those in need; ***Kodomo no Jikan,*** a lighthearted comedy about a group of school girls who do nothing but try to put their innocent male teacher into awkward situations; And ***Neconoclasm,*** a collection of gag strips.

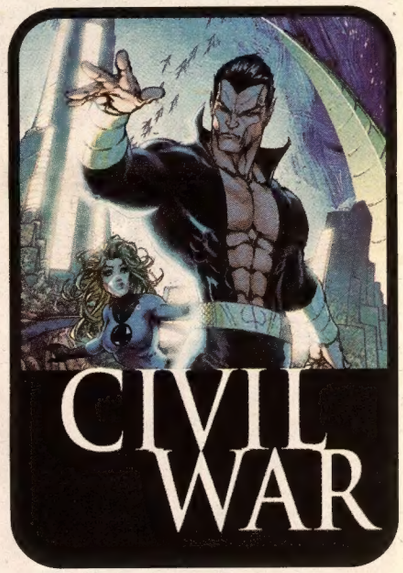
Out: ***Transformers: Stormbringer #1,*** which sold out from IDW in the first week of its release. The company has no plans to go back to press on this first installment of a four-part miniseries.

Coming Comics—Marvel in October

Mayday Parker is back in action in ***Amazing Spider-Girl #1,*** the kickoff of a new ongoing series by *Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz* that guest-stars the original Hobgoblin, the Black Tarantula, and others. Before the new series begins, though, Marvel's making it easy for readers to catch up on the premiere heroine of Marvel Next in ***Amazing Spider-Girl #0,*** a clip-book that recounts the full story of Spider-Man's daughter.

The effects of Emma Frost's betrayal of the team are fully realized in ***Astonishing X-Men #18,*** the final issue of *Joss Whedon & John Cassaday's* "Torn."

The President of Rumekistan has issued an executive order -- execute Deadpool! Is Cable a proponent of capital punishment? Find out in ***Cable & Deadpool #33*** by *Fabian Nicieza & Reilly Brown.*



Captain America's depleted forces have determined the secret of File 42, setting them on a last-ditch collision course with Iron Man and the Pro-Registration heroes in ***Civil War #6,*** the penultimate issue of the series by *Mark Millar & Steve McNiven.*

The betrayer among the Marvel heroes stands revealed, as war with Atlantis seems inevitable! And Speedball comes face-to-face with his accuser in ***Civil War: Front Line #s 9 & 10*** by *Paul Jenkins, Ramon Bachs, Steve Lieber,* and others.

Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips venture into the realm of crime noir with ***Criminal,*** a new ongoing series from Marvel's creator-owned Icon imprint. In the debut issue, readers meet Leo, who can plan the perfect heist... if he can be convinced the job is safe enough. See, Leo is not a shoot-first think-later guy; Leo is a professional. But to some criminals—even professionals—the right payout is worth almost *any* risk.

Continued on page 6

MARVEL®

5 New Tales written by Stan "The Man" Lee

Joined by industry Super-Stars Brian Bendis, Jeph Loeb, Paul Jenkins, Roy Thomas & Joss Whedon!

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2006

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STAN LEE MEETS...

The Master of the Mystic Arts mystifies once again in ***Dr. Strange: The Oath,*** a limited series by *Brian K. Vaughan & Marcos Martin.* This time, Dr. Strange embarks on the most important paranormal investigation of his career, as he sets out to solve an attempted murder... his own! And with his most trusted friend also at death's door, Strange turns to an unexpected corner of the Marvel Universe to recruit a new ally. This limited series will firmly establish Doctor Strange in the current Marvel Universe as well as setting him up to join a surprising new team!

The remaining Eternals have to fight for their existence and the nature of the cosmos is explained in *Neil Gaiman & John Romita Jr.'s* ***Eternals #5,*** the penultimate issue of the miniseries that puts one of *Jack Kirby's* final Marvel creations right in the middle of the modern Marvelverse.

The Exiles find themselves in a world...without a world! The earth in this universe has been completely destroyed! And the creature responsible...the Silver Surfer! So do they just stand around in the dark? You'll have to pick up ***Exiles #87*** to find out—and if you're lucky, it'll include words and pictures by *Tony Bedard & Paul Pelletier.*

Will the Civil War mark the end of the Fantastic Four? Is Marvel's first family fragmented forever? Will another foursome take their place? Find out in ***Fantastic Four #542*** by *J. Michael Straczynski & Mike McKone.*

Who is the real Mysterio? It's a question that has been perplexing Spider-Man (and his fans) for quite some time, and now the web-slinger is head-to-bowl against *three* Mysterios! Learn the truth behind this trio of treachery in ***Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #13*** by *Peter David & Todd Nauck.*

Wolverine has just been dumped into a Nebraska cornfield from 85,000 feet in the air after a brutal battle with a giant robot. And now the robot is coming to finish the job. Now *there's* a story setup for you! *David Lapham & David Aja* tell the rest of the story in ***Giant-Size Wolverine #1,*** which features the original 34-page lead story as well as reprints of ***X-Men #s 6 & 7.***

The devil's son returns in ***Hellstorm: Son of Satan,*** a MAX series by *Alexander Irvine, Russell Braun, & Klaus Janson.* The story begins in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina, where the outpouring of human misery has drawn demons like sharks to a bloodbath. What better time for Damian Hellstorm --- a.k.a. The Son of Satan -- to pay a visit?

The Heroes for Hire have tracked down Captain America and Luke Cage in a SHIELD safehouse—only to be betrayed by one of their own! Now Misty Knight, the Black Cat, and the other heroes are forced to re-think their position in the Civil War. But they won't have too much time for contemplation, because supervillains have found away to enhance themselves with transplanted Skrull organs! No doubt about it—*Justin Gray & Billy Tucci* have some surprises in store, and they're delivering them in ***Heroes for Hire #3.***

Daniel & Charles Knauf and *Patrick Zircher* take readers into the mind of the most controversial figure in the Civil War in ***Iron Man #13.*** Find out why he feels that superhuman registration is necessary, and why he's taken it upon himself to lead the charge for its implementation.

When a low-level S.H.I.E.L.D. agent gets a hold of Hank Pym's new Ant-Man suit you know the Marvel Universe is in trouble. See just how much trouble in ***The Irredeemable Ant-Man #1*** by *Robert Kirkman & Phil Hester.*

Marvel Team-Up comes to an end with the 25th issue—and what an end it is! *Robert Kirkman & Andy Kuhn* wrap up all the loose ends, tie up the subplots, and leave no threats dangling!

Tony Stark's role in the Civil War costs him big... and you'll see just how big in ***New Avengers #25*** by *Brian Bendis & Jim Cheung.* The future of the Avengers begins here!

Artist *Mike Deodato* joins *J. Michael Straczynski* beginning with ***Squadron Supreme #8.***

Stan Lee continues to meet some of his best-known creations in another pair of oneshots. ***Stan Lee Meets Dr. Doom*** finds The Man abducted by the head of Latveria, leading to a retrospective look at his history of villainy. Then, Stan crosses paths with Ben Grimm in ***Stan Lee Meets the Thing,*** which begins with an ill-fated trip down Yancy Street. Both books combine new material with classic reprints of tales written by *Stan Lee.*

Reed Richards' search for a cure for Ben Grimm leads him to a strange new universe... one populated by an incredible superteam known as the Squadron Supreme! But rather than welcoming him, the authorities of that world arrest Reed for high crimes against their world. See what happens next in ***Ultimate Power #1*** by *Brian bendis & Greg Land,* the book that links the Supremeverse and the Ultiverse in most unpredictable ways.

If one man is capable of disrupting the carefully controlled world of Charles Xavier's School For Gifted Youngsters, it's the ultimate Cable! He comes from a tragic future to wreak havoc on mutantkind today. And his sinister secrets will shock the X-Men to their very core. You'll get a chance to meet him in ***Ultimate X-Men #75*** by *Robert Kirkman, Sean McKeever, & Ben Oliver.*

Logan confronts the Sentry in ***Wolverine #47*** by *Marc Guggenheim & Humberto Ramos.* He started the six-part "Vendetta" as the hunter... but he's finishing it as the prey!

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Ares: God of War,*** collecting the miniseries of the soon-to-be-Avenger;
- ***Black Panther: The Bride,*** collecting ***Black Panther #s 14-18;***
- ***Captain America: Winter Soldier Volume 2,*** collecting ***Captain America #s 8-9 & 11-14;***
- ***Daredevil: Father,*** collecting the miniseries by *Joe Quesada;*
- ***Daredevil: The Devil, Inside & Out Volume One,*** collecting ***Daredevil #s 82-87;***
- ***Exiles Volume 13: World Tour Book 2,*** collecting ***Exiles #s 75-83;***
- ***Dr. Strange Vs Dracula: The Montesi Formula,*** collecting ***Tomb of Dracula #44*** and ***Dr. Strange #s 14 & 58-62;***
- ***Essential Marvel Horror Volume One,*** collecting tales of Daimon Hellstrom, Satana, and others from ***Ghost Rider #s 1-2, Marvel Spotlight #s 12-24, Son of Satan #s 1-8, Marvel Two-In-One #14, Marvel Team-Up #s 32 & 8081; Vampire Tales #s 2-3; Haunt of Horror #s 24-25, & Marvel Premiere #27;***
- ***Heroes Reborn: Fantastic Four,*** collecting ***FF Vol 2 #s 1-12;***
- ***Last Planet Standing,*** collecting the MC2 miniseries;
- ***Marvel Adventures: The Avengers Volume 1—Heroes Assembled Digest,*** collecting the

first four issues;

•***Marvel Adventures Spider-Man Volume 1,*** a hardcover compilation of ***Marvel Adventures Spider-Man #s 1-8;***

•***Marvel Masterworks: Atlas Era Tales of Suspense,*** reprinting the first ten pre-hero issues of ***Tales of Suspense,*** which include works by *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Don Heck, Al Williamson, Bill Everett, John Buscemâ, Russ Heath,* and others;

•***Marvel Masterworks: The Amazing Spider-Man Volume 8,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 68-77*** and the Spidey tale from ***Marvel Super-Heroes #14;***

•***Pulse Volume 3: Fear,*** collecting ***Pulse #s 11-14 & New Avengers Annual #1;***

•***Runaways Volume 6: Parental Guidance Digest,*** collecting ***Runaways #s 13-18;***

•***Sensational Spider-Man: Feral Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Sensational Spider-Man #s 23-27;***

•***Spider-Man: The Other,*** collecting the twelve-part story arc from last fall;

•***Ultimate Fantastic Four Volume 6: Frightful,*** collecting ***Ultimate Fantastic Four #s 27-32;***

•***Ultimate Spider-Man Volume 7,*** a hardcover reprinting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 72-85;***

•***Ultimate X-Men Volume 14: Phoenix,*** collecting ***Ultimate X-Men #s 66-71;***

•***Wolverine: Enemy of the State,*** a whopper of a hardcover collecting ***Wolverine #s 20-32;***

•***Wolverine: Origin Premiere HC,*** collecting the miniseries by *Paul Jenkins, Joe Quesada, Bill Jemas, Andy Kubert;*

•***Wolverine: Origins Volume 1—Born in Blood Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Wolverine: Origins #s 1-5;*** and

•***Young Avengers Volume 2: Family Matters Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Young Avengers #s 7-12*** and ***Young Avengers Special.***

Coming Comics—Image in October

Jimmie Robinson brings back the villainous and seductive Bomb Queen in an all-new series. In ***Bomb Queen Vol 2 #1,*** Bomb Queen falls for a mysterious man... but all isn't what it seems as far as this stranger is concerned...

Brian Haberlin continues his digital art tutorial CD series with four new 2-hour instructional discs: ***Beginning Coloring Volume 1, How to Paint Monsters & Creatures Volume 1, How to Paint Super Babes Volume 1,*** and ***Creating Backgrounds, Scenes, & Skies Volume 1.*** Each is available separately or as a bargain-priced set of four.

There's something evil on board a drifting cargo ship that's nearing New York City... something that threatens the metropolis and all of its residents. *William harms, Nick Postic, & Nick Marinkovich* reveal just what it is in ***Impaler #1,*** the kickoff issue of a four-part limited series.

The unthinkable happens in ***Witchblade #103*** as Sara Pezzini and the Witchblade go their separate ways. *Ron Marz, Adriana Melo, & Mariah Benes* take the series in a surprising new direction with the introduction of a new bearer of the Witchblade—so be here to find out who it is!

Witchblade 103

Rick Spears & Vasilis Lolos explore young love, car jacking, and gang violence in ***The Pirates of Coney Island.***. In the first issue, Patch arrives in Coney Island only to get his eye sliced out by Trish, the wicked bad leader of the girl gang The Cherries. Across town, Sal, a pizza-selling bookie, meets a nasty end delivered by a monstrous shadow with a shotgun.

Jeff Amano & Andy McDonald take readers into the world of Russian crime in ***Red Warrior: Assassin for the Thieves' World.*** The daughter of a Russian mafia leader turns informant to help a government agent uncover the secrets of the Red Warriors in this compelling graphic novel.

Mike Baron, J.K. Snyder III, Mike Oeming, Tommy Castillo, Todd Livingston, Robert Tinnell, Neil Vokes, and others contribute to the 184-page ***Wicked West Volume 2: Abomination & Other Tales,*** a Western horror-adventure that pits Cotton Coleridge against zombies, ghosts, resurrectionists, giant flies, carnivorous slugs, demons and lots o' pure evil.

A dutiful Samurai, a madcap Ninja and a bizarro Zen Monk team up to battle the undead in feudal Japan in ***Zombee,*** a graphic novel by *Mile Gunter & Victor Santos.*

Image collected editions include:

•***Frank Cho Women: Selected Drawings & Illustrations,*** a softcover version of last spring's hit hardcover;

•***Hawaiian Dick Volume 2: The Last Resort,*** collecting the limited series;

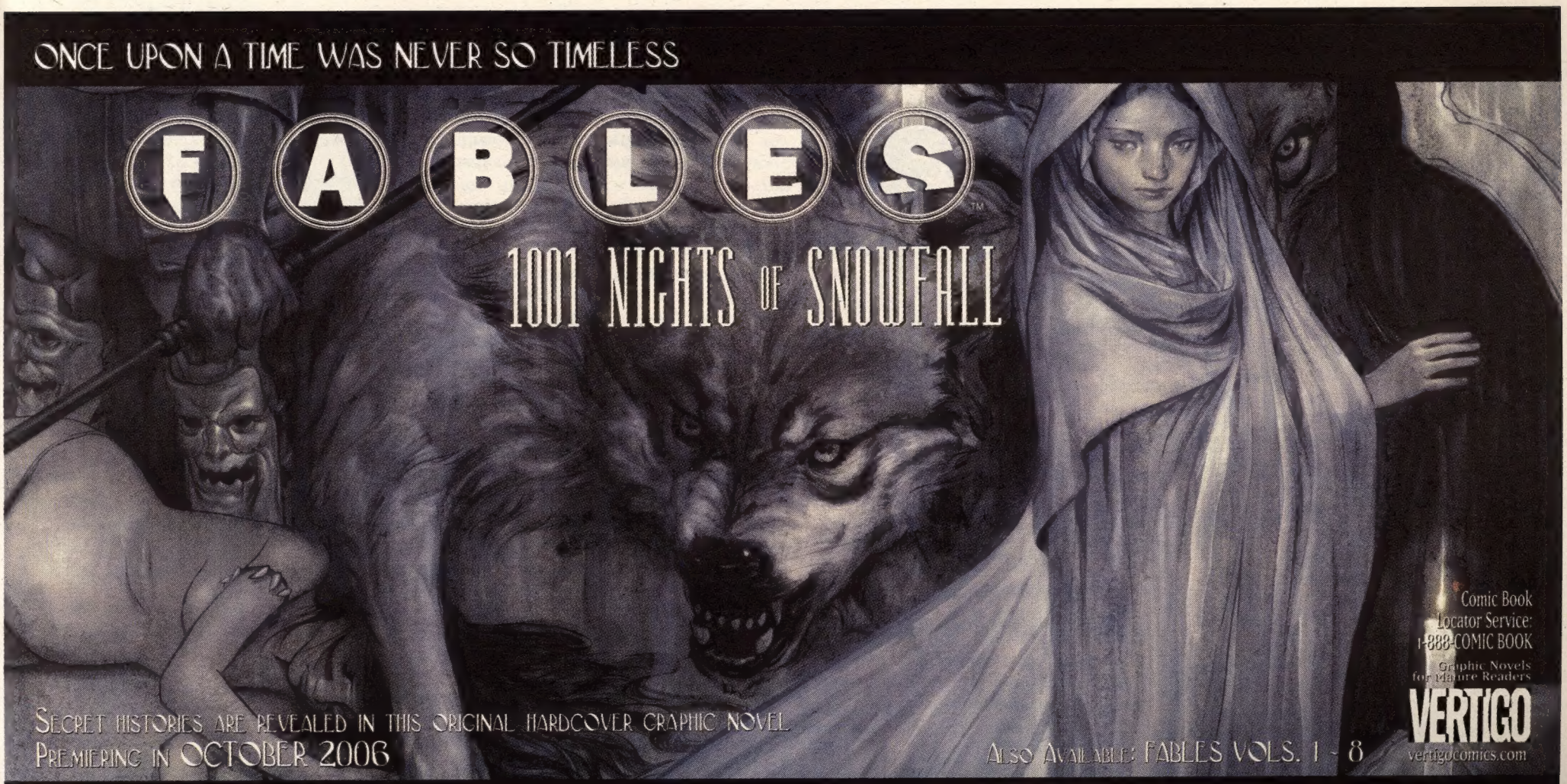
•***Hunter-Killer Limited Edition Hardcover,*** collecting ***Hunter-Killer #s 0-6*** in a thousand copy limited edition and a 250-copy deluxe slipcased edition;

•***Sea of Red Volume 3: The Deadlights,*** collecting ***Sea of Red #s 9-13;***

•***Spawn: Armageddon Part 1,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 150-155;*** and

•***Waterloo Sunset,*** collecting the four-issue limited series by *Andrew Stephenson & Trevor Goring.*

ONCE UPON A TIME WAS NEVER SO TIMELESS



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